

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 CIAE-00

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R 241230Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2288

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 0196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH-GREEK MINORITY PROBLEM

REF: ANKARA'S 2063

1. COMMENTING ON MARCH 12 INCIDENT REPORTED REFTEL DURING VISIT TO KOMOTINI AND XANTHI FOR INAUGURATION CEREMONIES OF UNIVERSITY OF THRACE MARCH 20, POLITICAL AFFAIRS ADVISER TO MINISTERS OF NORTHERN GREECE TOLD CONGEN THAT MOST DETAILS AS GIVEN IN TURKISH PRESS ACCOUNTS CORRECT, BUT THAT GOG HAD NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPTED FORCE EMIGRATION OF PARTY. RATHER, HE STATED, GROUP WAS ATTEMPTING ENTER TURKEY ILLEGALLY OVER ESTABLISHED SMUGGLING ROUTE, WITHOUT PASSPORTS, WHEN DETAINED BY TURKISH BORDER AUTHORITIES. WHEN GROUP REFUSED TO GO BACK TO GREECE VOLUNTARILY, TURKS SUMMONED GREEK OFFICIALS WHO FINALLY CONVINCED PARTY TO RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGE. ADVISER SAID INCIDENT MADE MORE TICKLISH BY FACT THAT TURK BORDER GUARDS KEPT GUNS TRAINED ON GROUP AND, LATTERLY, ON GREEK NEGOTIATING TEAM THROUGHOUT DETENTION PERIOD. HE ADDED THAT GREEK OFFICIALS HAD TOLD ALL MEMBERS
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OF GROUP THEY WOULD BE ISSUED GREEK PASSPORTS FOR

LEGAL EMIGRATION UPON APPLICATION.

2. COMMENT: IF ADVISER'S VERSION IS ACCURATE,
QUESTION REMAINS AS TO MOTIVE FOR SUCH A SIZEABLE
GROUP OF TURKISH ETHNICS TO DEPART COUNTRY.
BRENNAN

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